WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for managing a network comprising a network element, said method comprising:

    selecting a real time variable of said network element for dynamic monitoring in a cell on a spreadsheet;

        measuring said real time variable of said network element; and

        using said measured real time variable in said cell.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein said real time variable is measured by polling said network element.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein said using said measured real time variable includes displaying said measured real time variable in said cell.

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein said measured real time variable is displayed as part of a graph.

5.   The method of claim 1 wherein said measured real time variable is stored in a memory.

6.   The method of claim 1 wherein said measured real time variable is sent to said cell only if said measured real time variable changes.

7.   The method of claim 1 wherein said using said measured real time variable includes triggering a business action, when said measured real time variable satisfies a predetermined condition.

8.   The method of claim 7 wherein said business action includes a selection from a group consisting of sending an email, sending a phone message, triggering an event in a workflow process, and any combination thereof.

9.   The method of claim 7 wherein said predetermined condition is exceeding a predetermined threshold.

19

10.   A method for displaying real time data from a network element on a display at a client computer, said client computer connected to a server via a public communications network, said method comprising:

displaying on said display a spreadsheet comprising a plurality of cells;

assigning a real time variable to a cell of said plurality of cells, wherein said real time variable is measured from said network element;

receiving a dynamic update of said real time variable via said server; and

displaying said dynamic update in said spreadsheet.

11.   The method of claim 10 wherein network element is part of a Virtual Private Network (VPN) connection.

12.   The method of claim 10 further comprising displaying a graph of historical values of said real time variable.

13.   The method of claim 10 further comprising displaying a status of a network link associated with said network element.

14.   The method of claim 13 wherein said network link is a VPN link.

15.   The method of claim 10 wherein said dynamic update is displayed in said cell on said spreadsheet.

16.   The method of claim 10 wherein said dynamic update is combined with static data before being displayed on said spreadsheet.

17.   The method of claim 10 wherein said dynamic update triggers a business action when a predetermined condition is satisfied.

18.   The method of claim 17 wherein said wherein said business action includes a selection from a group consisting of sending an email, sending a phone message, triggering an event in a workflow process, and any combination thereof.

19.   A server system for managing a network device, wherein said server system is connected to a client computer executing software in an Internet browser, said software stored in a computer readable medium, said server system comprising:

20

a network interface for receiving from said software a request to monitor a measurable variable of said network element;

a data monitor module for periodically monitoring said measurable variable; and

a live update module for sending changes to said measurable variable to said software.

20.   The server system of claim 19 wherein said periodically monitoring said measurable variable comprises polling a MIB of said network element using SNMP.

21.   The server system of claim 19 wherein said software comprises a spreadsheet program.

22.   The server system of claim 19 wherein said network element is part of a VPN.

23.   The server system of claim 19 further comprising an asset database.

24.   The server system of claim 23 wherein said network element is associated with an asset object of said asset database.

25.   The server system of claim 23 wherein said asset database is an objected oriented database, relational database, or a combination thereof.

26.   A memory for storing data for access by an application program being executed on a computer, comprising:

a data structure stored in said memory, said data structure comprising a plurality of data objects for use by said application program, said plurality of data objects comprising:

an asset data object comprising a physical or logical asset;

a profile associated with said asset data object for describing said physical or logical asset; and

a value comprising a measured value of said asset data object for dynamically updating said value to said application program.

27. The memory of claim 26 wherein said logical asset is a device selected from a group consisting of a router, switch, hub, host, server, personal computer, and gateway.

28. The memory of claim 26 wherein said application program is a spreadsheet program.

29. A method for dynamically managing a network using business information, said network comprising a network device, comprising:

selecting a real time variable to be dynamically monitored based on a legal agreement;

measuring said real time variable using said network element; and

using said measured real time variable, determining if a condition in said legal agreement is met.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein said legal agreement is a Service Level Agreement (SLA).

31. The method of claim 29 wherein said network is a VPN.

32. A method, using a computer display, for a dynamic sales presentation of a network, comprising:

presenting said dynamic sales presentation on said computer display to a customer, said dynamic sales presentation, comprising a real time variable of said network;

during said presenting, updating said real time variable by measuring a network element of said network; and

displaying said updated real time variable to said customer.

33. The method of claim 32 wherein said network is a VPN.

34. The method of claim 32 further comprising relating said updated real time variable to cost information.

35. A system for managing a network comprising a network element, comprising:

22

means for selecting a real time variable of said network element, wherein said real time variable is dynamically monitored in a cell on a spreadsheet;

means for measuring said real time variable of said network element; and

means for using said measured real time variable in said cell.